

Message Text

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O R 151725Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1555
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 4800

DEPT FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SOV

FROM USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE
SUBJECT: CSCE BELGRADE: SOVIETS VIEWS ON NNA PAPER

REF: (A) BELGRADE 4663, (B) BELGRADE 4714

1. DURING LENGTHY PRIVATE CONVERSATION AT BASTILLE DAY RECEPTION SECOND-RANKING MEMBER OF SOVIET DEL (KONDRASHOV) PROVIDED MEMBER OS USDEL WITH DETWUS OF SOVIET VIEWS ON REMAINING PROBLEMS IN NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED (NNA) PACKAGE PAPER. THESE SPECIFIC POINTS CONSTITUTE SOVIET PREFERENCES WITHIN THEIR GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF NNA PAPER, WHICH WAS REPORTED IN REF (B). FOLLOWING POINTS AR KEYED TO REVISED VERSION OF NNA PAPER WHICH WE ARE TRANSMITTING BY SEPTTEL.

(A) AGENDA ITEM 5 (FOLLOW-UP): SOVIETS PREFER "IN CONFORMITY WITH THE FINAL ACT", RATHER THAN " IN CONFORMITY WITH ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHAPTER ON FOLLOW-UP OF THE FINAL ACT", AS
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PRESENTLY CONTAINED IN NNA PAPER. KONDRASHOV ADMITTED THAT THIS WAS NOT AN IMPORTANT POINT.

(B) AGENDA ITEM 6 (FINAL DOCUMENT): SOVIETS WANT TO DELETE PHRASE "INCLUDING THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING SIMILAR TO THE PRESENT ONE", WHICH THEY ARGUE PREJUDGES A DECISION WHICH SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE MAIN MEETING. (COMMENT: NNA REPS HAVE TOLD US THAT

THEY KNOW THIS PHRASE IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIETS AND HAVE RETAINED
IT IN THIS REVISED DRAFT ONLY FOR TRADING PURPOSES TO MAINTAIN
LEVERAGE FOR OBTAINING ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE FROM SOVIETS ON DURATION.
WITHOUT SPECIFYING, NNA HAVE IMPLIED THAT THERE ARE A FEW OTHER
TRADING ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE PAPER. END COMMENT.)

(C) ORGANIZATIONAL ITEM 2 (WORKING BODIES): SOVIETS PREFER TO
SAY "SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES, WHICH WILL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE
PLENARY", AND "OTHER SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES MAY BE SET UP BY THE
PLENARY TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS". THEY ARGUE THAT RIGHT
TO ESTABLISH WORKING BODIES SHOULD BE RESERVED TO THE PLENARY.
(COMMENT: UNLESS CAREFULLY DRAFTED, THIS COULD BE A DIFFICULT POINT,
BECAUSE WESTERN AND NNA DELS WANT IT TO BE CLEAR THAT THE WORKING
BODIES LISTED ARE ALREADY AGREED AND WILL BEGIN THEIR WORK
AUTOMATICALLY. THE SOVIET WISH TO RESERVE TO THE PLENARY THE POWER OF
ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES ALSO WOULD INVOLVE A CHANGE
FROM THE HELSINKI RULES OF PROCEDURE, WHICH PROVIDE THAT WORKING BODIES
"MAY, IF THEY SO WISH, SET UP SUCH WORKING GROUPS
AS THEY MAY CONSIDER USEFUL". END COMMENT)

(D) ORGANIZATIONAL ITEM 5 (MEDITERRANEAN CONTRIBUTIONS):
SOVIETS CANNOT ACCEPT PHRASE "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT
DECISION TAKEN BY THE PREPARATORY MEETING", UNTIL
SUCH A DECISION IS TAKEN. (COMMENT: THIS PHRASE HAS BEEN
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INCLUDED BY NNA AT MALTESE INSISTENCE, AND REFERS TO THEIR
PROPOSAL FOR AN ACTIVE AND CONTINUING PARTICIPATION BY MED
COUNTRIES IN WORKING BODY ON THE MED. NNA AND OTHER MED
DELEGATIONS BELIEVE MALTA WILL FALL BACK FROM THEIR PRO-
POSAL, BUT OF COURSE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO AGREE ON
THIS LANGUAGE UNTIL THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THE "RELEVANT
DECISION" AS WELL. THE SOVIETS SAY THEY CONSIDER MALTA A
WESTERN PROBLEM, AND CLEARLY EXPECT THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO
DO WHATEVER HAS TO BE DONE TO BRING THE MALTESE INTO LINE.
END COMMENT).

(E) ORGANIZATIONAL ITEM 6 (RHYTHM OF WORK): SOVIETS PREFER
TO MODIFY BALANCE OF WORK PROPOSED BY NNA TO HAVE MORE
PLENARY SESSIONS AND FEWER MEETINGS OF WORKING BODIES
(E.G. THEY WANT MAXIMUM OF FOUR MEETINGS FOR EACH WORKING
BODY PER WEEK. NNA HAVE PROPOSED SIX. MOST WESTERN DELEGA-
TIONS BELIEVE FIVE PER WEEK -- ONE PER DAY -- IS PHYSICAL
LIMIT, AND MANY WOULD BE QUITE HAPPY WITH FOUR. SOVIETS
ALSO WANT TO EXCLUDE SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS OF PLENARIES AND
WORKING BODIES. KONDRASHOV DID NOT DISCUSS ISSUE OF
NUMBER OF WEEKS WORKING BODIES WOULD BE IN SESSION. SOVIETS

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HAVE SUGGESTED PUBLICLY THAT FOUR WEEKS WOULD BE SUFFI-
CIENT. NNA PAPER INVISAGES EIGHT WEEKS.)

(F) ORGANIZATIONAL ITEM 12 (DURATION): SOVIETS ARE VERY
FIRM ON THE NEED FOR A SPECIFIC CLOSING DATE. WE ARGUED
WITH KONDRASHOV THAT THE FIXING OF A DISTANT CLOSING DATE,
SUCH AS THE APRIL 1978, DATE VORONTSOV HAS MENTIONED WAS NOT THE
BEST WAY TO APPROACH THIS PROBLEM. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A DATE WOULD
MEAN THAT THE DECEMBER TARGET DATE WOULD HAVE LESS IMPACT AND THAT
THERE WOULD BE A GREATER POSSIBILITY THAT THE MEETING COULD
LAST UNTIL THE MORE DISTANT DATE. WE URGED THAT SOVIETS CON-
CENTRATE INSTEAD ON A SINGLE TARGET DATE, AS WE HAVE DONE.
KONDRASHOV REITERATED THAT SOVIET DEL HAS "ABSOLUTELY
FIRM" INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT AND CANNOT COMPROMISE. HE
SAID SOVIETS KNEW THAT "SOME DELEGATIONS" (HE ALLUEDED IN
PASSING TO YUGOSLAVIA) WANTED TO HAVE AN ENDLESS DISCUSSION
OF THEIR NEW PROPOSALS, AND SOVIETS WERE NOT PREPARED TO
ACCEPT SUCH A SITUATION. HE ALSO REFERRED AGAIN TO THE
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MALTESE PROBLEM. (COMMENT: NNA NOW PLAN TO TRY TO RUN THROUGH THEIR PAPER IN OFFICIAL MEETINGS TO ISOLATE THE 3 OR 4 REMAINING PROBLEMS, AND THEN TO HOLD A SMALL GROUP MEETING INCLUDING A FEW DELEGATIONS FROM EAST, WEST AND NNA, PROBABLY ON JULY 19, TO TRY TO RESOLVE THESE FINAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY DURATION. THERE MAY BE WAYS TO PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH A FORMULA THEY COULD SELL IN MOSCOW BY BALANCAQG PINT 12 WITH ELEMENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE PAPER. FOR EXAMPLE, TIME SCHEDULE FOR PLENARY AND WORKING BODY SESSIONS COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR FULL 12-WEEK DURATION OF THE MAIN MEETING, THUS SHOWING EXACTLY WHEN MEETING SHOULD END, WHILE PRESERVING CONSENSUS-TO-CLOSE CONCEPT IN POINT 12. END COMMENT.)

2. KONDRASHOV SAID SOVIET DELEGATION HAD GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO DEVELOP GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH USDEL AND TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO MOSCOW ANY COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN US AND SOVIET POSITIONS. HE STRESSED SOVIET DESIRE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US.
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